

INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

National Park Service

All or some of the information provided may be available to the public

Reporting Year: 2002	Park: Shenandoah NP
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Permit#: SHEN-2000-SCI-0001	
Park-assigned Study Id. #: SHEN-00203	
Project Title: Dating of Ground Water in Shenandoah National Park	
Permit Start Date: Jan 01, 2000	Permit Expiration Date Jan 01, 2005
Study Start Date: Jan 01, 2000	Study End Date Jan 01, 2005
Study Status: Continuing	
Activity Type: Research	
Subject/Discipline: Water / Hydrology	
Objectives: The overall objective of this work is to provide new information in the application of atmospheric chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) to dating of young, recently-recharged groundwater in Shenandoah National Park. It is expected that this work will have transfer value to dating of spring discharge, and interpretation of hydrochemical records of spring discharge. Specifically, we are looking at processes that affect the initial CFC and SF6 concentrations in the unsaturated zone. We are also using detailed records of thermal data to investigate the transient response of spring discharge to meteorological events.	
Findings and Status: In 2002 we continued data collection to further refine interpretation of groundwater age in SHEN and to improve understanding of temporal discharge from springs. The data collection includes the following: 1. Detailed temporal measurements of water temperature and specific conductance are being recorded at 30-minute intervals in discharge from 5 springs in the Park. 2. We are continuing full sampling (chemistry, isotopes, major dissolved gases, CFCs, SF6) at monthly intervals at these 5 springs. 3. We are recording water temperature at 30-minute intervals at approximately 35 springs in the Park. 4. We are measuring the composition of unsaturated-zone gases (CFCs, SF6, N2, Ar, CO2, O2) and unsaturated zone temperature in 6 unsaturated zone wells. 6. We continue to analyze air collected approximately weekly at the Big Meadows Air Monitoring Station for CFCs and SF6. The results at the present time are preliminary and have not been fully evaluated. We expect to do so when we have sufficient seasonal data that will help us understand the variations that have been observed in the unsaturated zone.	
For this study, were one or more specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analyses? No	
Funding provided this reporting year by NPS: 0	Funding provided this reporting year by other sources: 30000

Fill out the following ONLY IF the National Park Service supported this project in this reporting year by providing money to a university or college

Full name of college or university:

n/a

Annual funding provided by NPS to university or college this reporting year:

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